

Community and Tribal Programs

November 2004

Tobacco Facts

Tobacco-related diseases
kill more than 8,300
Washington residents
every year.

Tobacco-related medical
costs in Washington exceed
\$1.5 billion annually.

The tobacco industry
spends approximately
\$250 million annually in
Washington promoting its
products and generating
new smokers

Research shows that meaningful and sustained reductions in tobacco use can occur only when a comprehensive set of tobacco prevention activities are integrated in communities. Washington's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program provides more than \$6 million annually to county health departments, community-based organizations, and tribes to support tobacco prevention activities in all 39 counties and 26 Washington tribes.

How the community component works

Local tobacco prevention programs are effective because they carry out activities designed to meet the unique needs of their communities. Community-based activities include:

- Forming partnerships between schools, government agencies, and other community-based groups to help smokers quit and prevent others from starting.
- Raising public awareness of tobacco issues and resources to help smokers quit, such as through promotion of the Washington State Tobacco Quit Line.
- Training doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to help their patients quit.
- Educating families and businesses about the dangers of secondhand smoke.
- Developing and providing resources for help high-risk communities.

The communities and tribes are joined locally by programs in schools and emerging activities driven by high-risk populations.

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State provides technical assistance to communities

In addition to direct funding, the state Tobacco Prevention and Control Program provides local programs with free tobacco prevention and control materials through a clearinghouse, training, expert speakers for community events, information on the latest research, and survey and evaluation information.

A comprehensive approach to fighting tobacco use

Research shows that state and local tobacco programs must be broad-based and comprehensive to be effective. State and local programs also conduct public awareness and media campaigns, provide services to help people quit, encourage smoke-free environments, and restrict the ability of kids to get tobacco.